

- Trauma System
- EMS for Children
- Stroke System
- Poison Control Network
- Emergency Medical Informatics
  - Statewide Trauma Registry
  - Prehospital Patient Care Reporting
- Durable Do Not Resuscitate

### Goals

- An overall upgrade to the technology that is used to collect information on EMS responses that occur within Virginia.
- Update the items that Virginia currently collects (dataset) from PPCR forms to the new national EMS dataset, known as NEMESIS.
- Add performance improvement tools for agency and OEMS use.
- Provide EMS agencies with access to their own data through user friendly internet tools.
- Replace the current PPDR program with a commercially developed (“off the shelf”) web-based program.

Using an upgraded program will:

- Improve quality and consistency of PPCR data;
- Increase the ease of using the data for reports and analysis;
- Decrease the amount of time the data is able to be used.

### Project Description

The proposed upgraded system, which is called the EMS Registry to match its legal name, will be a statewide, Web-based data collection and reporting tool. As a Web-based tool this means that agencies will either enter data directly into the EMS Registry by entering the information from completed PPCR forms through a Webpage, upload PPCR data from a state provided electronic PPCR (ePCR), or upload data from a commercial EMS software program that the agency has purchased.

Upgraded technology: moving PPCR data collection to a Web-based program is the largest part of upgrading the program and brings it to a level that is now the standard method for state and federal agencies to collect required information. For the majority of agencies this upgrade will eventually make submitting easier; a small percentage of agencies will have challenges accessing the internet, or will have to add internet service to their agency’s budget.

Other technology that is part of OEMS’ goals is to provide EMS agencies with access to their own data, including reporting tools to view the data. OEMS intends to continue to provide the basic data collection and performance improvement and reporting tool at no cost to agencies. OEMS also intends to ensure that whichever vendor is awarded the contract for Virginia’s upgraded program also has programs available to agencies (at the agency’s cost) that many EMS agencies need such as billing, certification tracking, inventory and maintenance tracking, ePCR, GPS mapping, and CAD interface. (all of this is subject to the State procurement process)

**Performance Improvement (PI):** sometimes called quality assurance (QA), quality improvement (QI), or other names is required to be performed by each licensed EMS agency in Virginia. The EMS Registry project will have, as part of its basic function, the ability for EMS agencies to review their own data in a way that they can see where their strengths and weakness are, so they may strive to provide the best patient care and response to requests for services as possible.

**Commercial Product:** Why is OEMS planning to purchase an already existing commercial product instead of developing its own program? Simply put: time and money. With the amount of information technology (IT) resources available to OEMS, competing with other state programs, combined with the amount of time and effort that is required to design, program, test and implement a new program of this size, the PPCR program realistically would not get upgraded.

It has only been within the last approximately four years that there have been EMS software programs developed that can manage a statewide system. Thanks in part to the standards created by the NEMSIS project there are now about 12-14 statewide programs that are similar to what OEMS envisions in our program. The efforts of these 12-14 states has provided software companies with the opportunity to learn how to provide statewide service and provide Virginia with the ability to learn from the other states how to implement a new program more easily. We will save significant time and costs because of the experience of other states programs.

**Electronic PPCR (ePCR):** Will agencies have to use ePCRs? NO! OEMS intends to encourage agencies to adopt using electronic patient care reporting by providing free field collection software and provide as much hardware as OEMS can secure funding for. ePCR will not be mandated.

## Benefits

A more user friendly system will enable the OEMS to utilize EMS data for surveillance and to move towards evidence based practices. Data will be more readily available for users in developing and maintaining performance

## NEMSIS (National EMS Information System) Information:

More information about NEMSIS can be found at <http://www.NEMSIS.org>. Click on “The Project” tab to learn what NEMSIS is and what states and organizations support the project. The “Compliant Software” tab provides a list of software vendors that are Gold Compliant. It is OEMS intent to require bidders for the statewide contract to be Gold Compliant with NEMSIS. This will provide EMS agencies with the ability to utilize the state provided software and be able to collect any NEMSIS compliant data they choose. The support tab includes the entire NEMSIS dataset (Virginia will not collect all of these items) and the “Software Developers” tab includes technical information about the format that will be used when OEMS changes its program.

## Project Status

The project is scheduled from February 25, 2008, to August 30, 2009. The project kick-off meeting was held on March 04, 2008, at the Office of Emergency Medical Services during the monthly managers meeting. The project is currently on schedule and within budget.

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